

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 IO-10

L-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-05 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02 OC-05 BIB-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 NASA-02 NSC-05 OES-05 OIC-02

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R 291418Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0631

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ETEL, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO: MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE, SITREP 4

1. ON APRIL 28, WORK OF CONFERENCE WAS CONDUCTED IN FOLLOWING SUBSIDIARY BODIES: COMMITTEE I, WHICH CONSIDERED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND ENTITIES; COMMITTEE II, WHICH DEALT WITH INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT; AND AD HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH CONSIDERED QUESTION OF INVESTMENT SHARES.

2. COMMITTEE I MORNING SESSION - DEBATE CENTERED ON OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS AND ENTITIES TOWARDS INMARSAT. U.S. EXPLAINED USG REGULATORY PROCESS OVER PRIVATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS AND HOW

USG WOULD INSTRUCT ENTITY CONCERNING ITS ACTIVITIES IN COUNCIL. U.S. ALSO STRESSED THAT DESIGNATION OF ENTITY WOULD IN NO WAY RELIEVE USG OF LIABILITY UNDER OUTER SPACE TREATIES. PRINCIPAL SOVIET CONCERN
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APPEARED TO BE TO NAIL DOWN GOVERNMENT

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT SYSTEM WOULD BE OPERATING PERFECTLY AT ALL TIMES AND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS POWER TO COMPEL ENTITY TO COMPLY WITH INMARSAT CONVENTION. SWEDEN NOTED UNIQUE DUAL PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: 1) TO PROVIDE COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND 2) TO FURTHER SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA; BUT NOTED THAT THESE ASPECTS INTERTWINED AND IT THUS DIFFICULT TO RELIEVE GOVERNMENT OF ALL LIABILITY TOWARDS ORGANIZATION. JAPAN STRESSED THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MATTERS AND ENTITIES SHOULD DEAL WITH OTHER MATTERS IN INMARSAT. FRANCE WAS PLEASED WITH U.S. EXPLANATION AND STATED ITS VIEW THAT MAJOR DIFFICULTY IN ACCOMMODATING U.S. VIEWS WAS DIFFERENCE IN WORDING, NOT SUBSTANCE.

3. AFTER LUNCHEON BREAK, COMMITTEE I RETURNED TO FIND ANONYMOUS REWRITE OF POE ARTICLE 6 ON DESKS; DOCUMENT EVIDENTLY EMANATED FROM GDR AND USSR DELS AND WHILE WORDING CHANGED SOMEWHAT, REDRAFT STILL CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES RE ENTITY. U.S., SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, OBJECTED TO CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLES AS OUTSIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE, BUT OTHERS, INCLUDING USSR, SWEDEN, UK AND NORWAY INSISTED ON PROCEEDING. JAPAN SUGGESTED FORMATION OF WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER DRAFT, BUT OTHERS MAINTAINED THIS WAS PREMATURE. U.S. THEN PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION AS ELEMENT OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT AT WHICH POINT COMMITTEE I ADJOURNED FOR DAY.

4. COMMITTEE II - JAENICKE OF FRG AND VAHTRICK OF AUSTRALIA ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE II AT FIRST SESSION MORNING OF APRIL 28. VAHTRICK CHAIRED MORNING SESSION IN ABSENCE

OF CHAIRMAN. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF PLENARY DEBATE ON INVESTMENT SHARES, CHAIR ASKED FOR UK COMMENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF ANNEX FOR INITIAL INVESTMENT SHARES. UK SAID INVESTMENT FORMULA UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FIRST AND THEN ANNEX. THE U.S. URGED THAT INVESTMENT AND USE SHOULD CORRESPOND AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE; POINTED OUT ALTERNATIVE A COULD ENTAIL COMPLICATED OPERATIONAL AND ACCOUNTING PROBLEMS INCREASING COST OF SERVICE AND AGREED WITH UK THAT CONSIDERATION OF ANNEX SHOULD COME LATER; PRIMARY TASK OF COMMITTEE II IS TO DEVELOP FORMULA.

5. RECORDING AND ACCOUNTING FOR CALLS WAS
DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AND IN RESPONSE TO JAPANESE
QUESTION U.S. DESCRIBED BASIS FOR HIGHER END USER
COSTS WHICH WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED UNDER TERMS OF
ALTERNATIVE A AS COMPARED TO C.

6. SWEDEN, WITHOUT ABANDONING ALTERNATIVE A,
SUGGESTED POSSIBLE SOLUTION ON DIVISION OF TRAFFIC

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COULD BE TO DIVIDE TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS
(SHIP/SHORE, SHORE/SHIP) INTO TWO PARTS 1) SHIP
AND 2) SHORE; THAT ORIGINATING OR TERMINATING
ABOARD SHIP TO BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO FLAG STATE OF
VESSEL; THAT ORIGINATING OR TERMINATING ASHORE TO
TERMINATION OR ORIGIN STATE IF THAT STATE IS A
MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION

OF THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL IN THE COMMITTEE. ON THE CHAIR'S SUGGESTION, A WORKING GROUP WAS LATER SET UP TO CONSIDER THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL, OTHER MATTERS RAISED IN COMMITTEE II ON THIS ISSUE AND ANY OTHER PROPOSAL RAISED IN WORKING GROUP ITSELF. THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDED 19 STATES CHAIRED BY VAHRICK OF AUSTRALIA. RESULTS OF ITS DISCUSSIONS ARE REPORTED BELOW. (SEE PARAGRAPH 11)

7. A DISCUSSION OF POE DRAFT ARTICLE 28
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(PROCUREMENT) FOLLOWED. THE GENERAL TREND OF DEBATE WAS TOWARDS LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO THAT IN

ARTICLE 13 OF THE INTELSAT AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WHILE SUPPORTERS OF ALTERNATIVE A OF THE POE DRAFT MAINTAINED NEED TO ENSURE WORLD-WIDE COMPETITION.

8. IRAQ SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD PUT "WORLD-WIDE" COMPETITION IN THE BID TENDERING PHASE OF PROCUREMENT. THE FRG PROPOSED REVISED LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLE 28 WHICH CLOSELY APPROXIMATED THE PRESENT ALTERNATIVE A TEXT. BRAZIL WITH SUGGESTIONS FROM LIBERIA AND THE U.S. INTRODUCED A TEXT SIMILAR IN MOST RESPECTS TO THE INTELSAT LANGUAGE. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT THE FRG, LIBERIAN AND AN IRAQI PROPOSAL WOULD BE REPRODUCED ALONG WITH ARTICLE 13 OF INTELSAT AGREEMENT AND DISTRIBUTED TO COMMITTEE II IN MORNING APRIL 29 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. THUS, IT APPEARED THREE TEXTS TO BE PLACED BEFORE COMMITTEE APPROXIMATE U.S. VIEWS WITH ONLY ONE (THE FRG) PROPOSAL FAVORING EUROPEAN/USSR POSITION.

9. SOME DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR PARA 2 (E) OF ALTERNATIVE B TEXT PROPOSED BY U.S. RE LAUNCHER SERVICES WAS INCONCLUSIVE BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT SEVERAL DELS THOUGHT THIS POINT ADEQUATELY COVERED IN ALTERNATIVE A, PARA 2 (B) OR 2 (C) WORDING AND THAT ITS INCLUSION WAS EITHER NOT NEEDED OR REDUNDANT.

10. DURING PROCUREMENT DISCUSSIONS MOST DELS TOOK POSITIONS EXPECTED. ITALY AND FRG SOMEWHAT STRONGER IN SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE A THAN HAD BEEN THOUGHT LIKELY WHILE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SPEAKING WERE UNIFORMLY IN FAVOR U.S. LANGUAGE. POLAND, UNACCOUNTABLY, ALSO TOOK STRONG POSITION FAVORING U.S. VIEW EARLY IN DEBATE BUT AFTER STRONG USSR PITCH FOR

ALTERNATIVE A WAS MADE DID NOT INTERVENE AGAIN.
DEBATE ON PROCUREMENT WILL CONTINUE WHEN COMMITTEE II
RESUMES WORK APRIL 29.
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11. THE QUESTION OF ATTRIBUTING TRAFFIC TO

ADMINISTRATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING
INVESTMENT SHARES WAS DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE II AND
ITS WORKING PARTY. ALTERNATIVES A AND C WERE
CONTRASTED IN TERMS OF EQUITY AND PRACTICABILITY OF
IMPLEMENTATION. SWEDISH COMPROMISE WAS FLOATED,
SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE TO THE HALF-CIRCUIT CONCEPT USED
BY INTELSAT. USDEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXPLORING
ITS PRACTICABILITIES, AND INDICATED DIFFICULTIES
IN APPRAISING ITS EFFECTS ON THE INVESTMENT SHARE
OF INDIVIDUAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

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